



# KUSKOKWIM RIVER

## NEWS RELEASE 1

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Subsistence Salmon Fishing Schedule to Begin in the Lower Kuskokwim River June 4**

### *Kuskokwim River Subsistence Fishing Schedule for June 4 to June 10*

(Subsistence fishing open 7 days per week 24 hours per day until midnight Saturday June 3)

Dates	Sunday June 4	Monday June 5	Tuesday June 6	Wednesday June 7	Thursday June 8	Friday June 9	Saturday June 10
Closed Area	From Bogus Cr.* Downstream	From Bogus Cr.* Downstream	From Bogus Cr.* Downstream	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
Open Area	From Bogus Cr.* Upstream	From Bogus Cr.* Upstream	From Bogus Cr.* Upstream	Entire Kuskokwim River	Entire Kuskokwim River	Entire Kuskokwim River	Entire Kuskokwim River

\* Bogus Creek is located approximately 9 miles upstream from the community of Tuluksak.

The Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fishing schedule, which has been in effect since the 2001 season, will be in effect again during the 2006 season. Although inconvenient to fishers, compliance to the schedule has provided for achievement of chinook and chum salmon escapement goals and has spread subsistence harvest opportunity among all subsistence users throughout the drainage. The schedule provides “windows” of time when no fishing occurs so that portions of the salmon run can migrate upriver with less harvest. The schedule is only for subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and fish wheels. The schedule allows four (4) consecutive days of subsistence fishing per week from Wednesday through Saturday. It is anticipated that the schedule will be discontinued after June 13 if inseason run assessment indicates Chinook salmon escapements will be achieved. Subsistence fishers have been able to meet their harvest needs following the schedule.

The schedule will be implemented in weekly steps up the river with the first closed period affecting only that portion of the Lower Kuskokwim River downstream of Bogus Creek. This portion of the Lower Kuskokwim River will be closed to subsistence salmon fishing from 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 4 until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, June 6. All gillnets with mesh greater than four-inches must be pulled from the water and fish wheels must be stopped during this time period.

Salmon spawning tributaries closed to subsistence fishing during the June 4, 5, and 6 closed period are the Eek, Kwethluk, Kisaralik, Kasigluk, and Tuluksak Rivers. That portion of the lower Kuskokwim River downstream of Bogus Creek will reopen to subsistence salmon fishing from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 8 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, June 10.

Areas closed to subsistence fishing will be expanded up the river in coming weeks. From 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 11 until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday June 13, subsistence fishing closures will be in effect in that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its salmon spawning tributaries downstream from the community of Chuathbaluk. It is anticipated that the schedule will be discontinued at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 14 if inseason run assessment indicates Chinook salmon escapements will be achieved.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fishing for fish other than salmon will be allowed only with hook-and-line gear and gillnets with four-inch or smaller mesh that are 60 feet or less in length. However, subsistence salmon regulations will not apply to fishing for fish other than salmon in non-salmon tributaries 100 yards upstream from their confluence with the Kuskokwim River. Non-salmon tributaries in the lower Kuskokwim River include the Gweek, Johnson, Kinak, Kialik, and Tagayarak Rivers. Subsistence salmon fishing with hook-and-line gear (rod and reel) is allowed 7 days per week in all waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage.

This subsistence-fishing schedule is part of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan (05 AAC 07.365). Through your cooperation, this plan was successful during the 2001 through 2005 seasons. It provided for good overall escapements and spread subsistence opportunity throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage.

Fishers are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and Federal Subsistence Management regulations for federal waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing on the Kuskokwim River. For further information regarding federal regulations please call 1-800-478-1456.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.